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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4813

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL CVIS SHUM CSCE PL US
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH VICE MINISTER CZYREK

REF: STATE 141868

1. I RAISED THE ISSUE OF PASSPORT APPROVALS FOR BARANCZAK, TORUNCZYK, AND MAZOWIECKI, EMPHASIZING I WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND POINTING OUT HIGH LEVEL U.S.G. INTEREST IN THESE CASES. I EXPLAINED THAT THE INVITATIONS FOR BARANCZAK AND TORUNCZYK ARE ESSENTIALLY PRIVATE AFFAIRS AND OUR INTEREST IN THEM DERIVES FROM OUR CONTINUING DESIRE TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF POLISH AND AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL INSTUTIONS TO CARRY ON DIRECT EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. I ALSO SAID THAT IN BOTH CASES WE WERE DEALING WITH TWO OF OUR MOST PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITIES, HARVARD AND YALE. EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE CASES AND THE EMBASSY INVITATION TO MAZOWIECKI, I STRESSED THAT WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO ISSUE OFFICIAL EMBASSY INVITATIONS TO A WIDE SPECTRUM OF POLISH INTELLECTUAL LEADERS, INCLUDING SOME JOURNALISTS LIKE MAZOWIECKI WHO MAY PHILOSOPHICALLY DISAGREE WITH THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN POLAND, AND THAT WE LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUED GOP SUPPORT FOR THIS POLICY.

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2. CZYREK DEALT FIRST WITH THE BARANCZAK CASE, SAYING BARANCZYK WAS RECENTLY CONVICTED ON A CHARGE OF "CORRUPTION" AND THAT THIS WAS THE REASON FOR HIS PASSPORT DENIAL, NOT THAT HE IS A DISSIDENT. (COMMENT: BARANCZAK CLAIMS THAT HE WAS CONVICTED ON A TRUMPED-UP CHARGE. WE TEND TO BELIEVE HIM, SINCE HE WAS ANMESTIED, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER PEOPLE WHO PRO-

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TESTED THE EVENTS ON JUNE 1976, ON JULY 22, 1977.
END COMMENT.) ON MAZOWIECKI AND TORUNCZYK, CZYREK PLEADED IGNORANCE OF THE DETAILS AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THEM AND REPLY TO US IN DUE COURSE.
(COMMENT: THE MFA IS INDEED PROBABLY IGNORANT OF THE DETAILS OF THE TORUNCZYK CASE. HOWEVER, LUCJAN MIECZKOWSKI, WHO IS WELL AWARE OF THE MAZOWIECKI REFUSLA PASSED CZYREK A NOTE WHEN I MENTIONED MAZOWIECKI'S NAME. CZRYEK READ THE NOTE, BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE MATTER WITH HIS OWN STAFF BEFORE REPLYING. END COMMENT.)

3. CZYREK'S INITIAL REPLY ON ALL THREE CASES WAS TO POINT THAT THE MFA WAS NOT THE COMPETENT GOP AUTHORITY INVOLVED IN PASSPORT MATTERS, AND ITS COMPETENCE WAS LIMITED TO GIVING ADVICE TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. HE SAID WE COULD NOT EXPECT THE GOP TO GO FAR IN SUPPORTING ITS INTERNAL OPPONENTS. I POINTED OUT THAT POLAND HAS A RELATIVELY GOOD REPUTATION IN THE WEST INSOFAR AS FREEDOM OF TRAVEL IS CONCERNED, AND I HOPED IT WOULD ACT, IN THESE CASES, TO PROTECT ITS GOOD REPUTATION.

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